

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 09862 131630Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----131818Z 050847 /45
R 131457Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6113
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9862

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EG, IS, US
SUBJECT: ISRAELI OIL EXPLORATION IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: TEL AVIV 3991

1. AMOCO INFORMED US JUNE 13 THAT THEY HAVE BEEN CAREFULLY WATCHING TESTING OPERATIONS (REPORTED REFTTEL) AT ISRAELI RIG WORKING IN GULF OF SUEZ. ACCORDING TO AMOCO'S OBSERVATIONS, ISRAELI DISCOVERY CONSISTED MOSTLY OF GAS, AND NOT IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES TO WARRANT OPTIMISM OVER COMMERCIAL VOLUME OF DISCOVERY. TEST APPEARS TO AMOCO TO HAVE BEEN COMPLETED BUT THERE IS NO ACTIVITY AT PRESENT WHICH WOULD INDICATE PLANS TO MOVE RIG. NEVERTHELESS, AMOCO FULLY EXPECTS THAT THEY WILL MAKE ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO DRILL IN SAME AREA. IN THIS CONTEXT AMOCO SHOWED EMBOFF GEOLOGICAL MAP OF ISRAELI DRILLING SITE, WHICH AMOCO USING TO TRY TO PREDICT WHERE WHERE RIG WILL MOVE. BASED ON SEISMIC PATTERN ONLY MOVE WHICH WOULD MAKE TECHNICAL SENSE WOULD BE IN DIRECTION EITHER OF MORGAN OR RAMADAN; I.E., WEST AND SOUTH OF PRESENT LOCATION. EITHER MOVE, AMOCO POINTS OUT WOULD CAUSE CONCERN TO THEMSELVES NOT TO MENTION GOE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 09862 131630Z

2. PRIOR TO MEETING WITH AMOCO REPS, AMBASSADOR OSAMA AL-BAZ CALLED AMBASSADOR, AT FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY'S REQUEST, TO MAKE SURE WE WERE "AWARE OF NEW APPARATUS FOR IGNITING" AT ISRAELI RIG WHICH HAS BEEN OBSERVED BY EGYPTIANS WORKING FOR GUPCO AT MORGAN PLATFORM NUMBER 1 (CLOSEST EGYPTIAN PLATFORM TO ISRAELI DRILLING SITE) AND "INCREASED RIG ACTIVITIES AT ISRAELI

SITE" OBSERVED FROM MORGAN PLATFORM 3. AL-BAZ CONCLUDED THAT ACTIVITY INDICATES ISRAELIS HAVE MADE STRIKE (SIC). HE DID NOT GO BEYOND SIMPLE NOTIFICATION OF THESE OBSERVATIONS.

3. COMMENT: COINCIDENCE OF AMOCO AND FOREIGN MINISTRY APPROACHES WOULD INDICATE THAT ALL EYES IN GULF OF SUEZ ARE FOCUSED ON ISRAELI DRILLING OPERATION. ANY ATTEMPT BY ISRAELIS TO MOVE THEIR RIG, ESPECIALLY TO SOUTH AND/OR WEST AS AMOCO THINKS LIKELY, COULD WELL DEVELOP INTO DIFFICULT SITUATION. EGYPTIANS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY APPROACH US IN EFFORT TO PREVENT ISRAELIS FROM BEGINNING NEW DRILLING. THEY MIGHT ALSO TRY TO COUNTER BY ORDERING AMOCO TO ATTEMPT TO MOVE RIG INTO DISPUTED AREA. FORMER POSSIBILITY APPEARS MORE LIKELY AND WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF POSSIBILITY STRONG REACTION HERE IN CASE ISRAELIS ATTEMPT TO CONTINUE THEIR EXPLORATION IN GULF OF SUEZ.
EILTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPLORATORY DRILLING, GULF OF SUEZ
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO09862
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770210-0821
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770664/aaaacefi.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1a3a4f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 TEL AVIV 3991
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2180016
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ISRAELI OIL EXPLORATION IN GULF OF SUEZ
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, EG, IS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1a3a4f7e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009